

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1888.

W. A. WILGUS, Editor and Proprietor.
JNO. O. RUST, Associate Editor.
T. E. BARTLEY, Business Manager.

Owensboro had a \$150,000, fire Sunday night.

County conventions are a scheme of weak candidates.

There is not much show for dark horses in a primary election.

A candidate who writes letters to dead people will get his reward in the other world.

Gentlemen with I. O. U's in the Treasury vault are woefully out with the credit system.

The Louisville base ball club signed the Murphy pledge, and several saloons shut down at once.

A strong Ellis sentiment prevails in this county and everything indicates that he will have no trouble in carrying the county over Powell.

The Thomas bill is under discussion in the Legislature. The bill abolishes the salaries of the Railroad Commissioners, and hopeful gentlemen are therefore kicking against it.

It begins to look like the crop of aspirants to be the delegate from this district to the St. Louis Convention is unusually promising. There will be mighty little glory in casting one ballot for Cleveland and taking the train for home.

No doubt the New York seed house that has been on terms of intimacy with Statistician Dodge will regret to learn that there are bright prospects of his removal. If the tobacco crop would grow to his estimates last season it would have been a "daisy."

The report of Mr. C. J. Norwood, State Inspector of Mines, is a valuable compilation of statistics and a highly creditable piece of work. Mr. Norwood is not only the most competent geologist in the state, but he is one of the best officers in the commonwealth.

It is a subtle principle of human nature that whenever you see a fellow who is loud-mouthed in his denunciations of any given fault, generally it is a special weakness of his own. You find a man who is continuously prating about "bribery," "boodles," etc., and you can accept it as a fact that the only thing that keeps him from being a hireling and a dupe is for somebody to make him an offer.

The KENTUCKIAN in the congressional race exercises the God-given right to hold a preference. We will wage war upon no one. Of the many gentlemen who have been spoken of in connection with the race, each one possesses many excellencies of character which deserve the warm regard of his friends. Not one word have we to say against them. We are enamored of the claims of Capt. Ellis and propose to advocate him till the last. It is useless to go into campaign platitudes over him. In social life, at the bar, on the hustings he is every inch a man. He combines business sagacity and professional learning with forensic power of a high order. These, in truth, are the qualifications of a representative, and the man who is deficient in any one of these lacks that fullness of ability necessary to the discharge of the duties of so honorable a position.

On the fourth page of to-day's KENTUCKIAN will be found a well considered article on the Congressional situation. While we agree with the Inquirer that it is not wise to tantalize county pride by withholding or bestowing reciprocations, yet there may exist, indeed there does now exist, a state of facts that most assuredly warrants the bestowal of the Congressional preference upon Daviess county. It is clearly set forth that in twenty-three years Daviess has had the representative only one term, while Christian, Henderson and Hopkins come, in the order named, with congressional terms of eight, seven and four years. Daviess asserts her right to the choice with becoming modesty, and presents to the people of the district a candidate of splendid qualifications. We can but believe that the people will kindly award Capt. Ellis and Daviess county the honor they so richly deserve.

This is the way of it: The Ellis men want a primary election, the Powell men are pulling for county conventions; now for the why and wherefore. It is a patent fact that if the matter is left to the people, Ellis will be the nominee with an easy effort. His opposers know the only way to beat him is to throw the contest into conventions where they may knife him. As long as the question is left to a fair, square popular vote he is in no danger, but if his enemies can succeed in "rushing" the county conventions that hope to do the work for him. We confess the motive is not a good one. The time has come when every man should be given a fair showing for his honors. All this talk about primaries being undemocratic is the merest balderdash, mere cant thrown out for political effect. Aside from Mr. Ellis' claims, we are uncompromisingly for a primary; even were he opposed to it, though his chances were endangered by it, still we would be persistent in our appeal for a primary election. It is the only way to thwart wise-pullers and execute the preferences of the people.

OUR NEXT CONGRESSMAN.

Capt. W. T. Ellis, of Owensboro, is in easy reach of the Democratic nomination for Congress, which means that he is most certain to be our next representative. His election will show what true worth can accomplish in this country, and his career says to every poor boy in the district that nothing is too exalted for him to aspire to.

Born of humble parentage, he early in life realized that he had no claims on distinction but his own native resources, and at once began a life of remarkable energy and perseverance. He has acquired an education of high order and achieved the culture of broad literary research unaided. To-day his speeches bear the polish of a man of letters, while his work with the pen is equally charming. When quite young he began the practice of law in Owensboro embarrassed by adverse surroundings; yet these discouragements were stimulants to such a spirit, and he is now the peer of any man at his native bar. He is bright, genial, easy of approach, energetic, learned in his profession, skilled in debate and equipped by travel and research to occupy a commanding place in Congress. More than that, he is trained to severe business habits and free from the blight of dissipation. He has never been a "professional" politician, having served only part of a term as county attorney, which he resigned because of his large law practice. But he has not failed to familiarize himself with public affairs, and no man in this district is better acquainted with the operations of Congress and the intricate machinery of the government, both in its foreign and domestic relations, than W. T. Ellis.

We can but feel that such a man will be an honor to the "old Second" in Congress. In his representative capacity he will be "strictly business," and none of his duties will lack for attention even to the slightest details. And then, if some knight shall strike his shield, he can join with the most brilliant in public debate and maintain his ground against the most fiery rhetoricians of the country. In this two-fold capacity we believe he is eminently qualified. A representative should be not only a man who works the departments, answers letters promptly and votes right; nor should he be one to occasionally jump into the arena and perform a brilliant trumpet solo to atone for negligence in the other and lesser duties of his office—not at all. He should combine the capacity of an astute business man with the ability of a statesman. When his constituency calls upon him he should attend promptly and satisfactorily to their slightest wants, and when questions of great importance are under consideration he should be able to speak with influence. We have an abiding faith that Capt. Ellis will make this kind of an officer. The allurements of Washington life will not lead him from his official duties and his constituency will always find him at his place, a courteous, energetic, high-minded Congressman.

DARK HORSES.

To depict the alternating hopes and fears of a "dark horse" would require a pencil of light. To stand in the background and inject the suspicion into the of poll that you want an office when you aver you don't want it; to maintain secrecy amongst the few "insiders" who are to introduce the spooklike phenomenon at the proper time, these are affairs, indeed, of great pith and prudence. There has appeared recently a cruel desire to kill outright all "dark horses." The conviction is afloat that if a man wants an office he should come out and say so. The disposition to anticipate and speculate upon the embarrassment of "dark-locks" is almost under universal condemnation, yet there is rarely a convention but that some phantomatic candidate is flitting about with his little lightning rod hoping to tempt the thunder-hurl of popularity. 'Twas ever thus, but yet the things are changing.

It is not the proper thing for a delegate to express a choice the people have never had an opportunity of deciding. It is not well to nominate men for any office until they have been subjected to the scrutiny of a public canvass. In case of a deadlock, the selection of an outsider is at best but a dangerous experiment. Let us imagine a case. Suppose a district convention was called and that McKenzie, Powell and Ellis should be so supported that a deadlock would ensue. The people during the canvass will have been earnestly committed to one or the other of these, and it would be manifestly unfair, not only to the candidates, but to the people, to confer the nomination upon Mr. Laffoon, Mr. Spaulding or any other dark horse. Of course this predicament would be avoided by a primary election. We do not mean to say that Mr. Laffoon is a dark horse, or any other gentleman; we make the point that a dark horse should be shown no quarter. Any man who wants to be a Congressman, why let him "Shy his castor," if not, then let him not attempt to speculate upon the embarrassment of a deadlock.

There is an over-production of dialect writers at this time. Negro dialecticians are especially abominable. They write a sort of stuff that no more resembles plantation vernacular than it does French, and a morbid appetite for something funny gives it circulation. By the way, no man has ever yet succeeded in portraying the negro as he is, and that author who accomplishes this bit of work will find himself famous.

THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

Establishes a Work House And Attends to Other Important Business.

The County Court of Claims met Monday morning and remained in session till yesterday, the longest meeting the Court has held in the memory of man. It takes \$100 a day to run the Court, but as important measures were discussed the extra expense is excusable. We must not fail to mention the cataclysm of oratory that swept over the esquires, and the meeting put to shame the State Legislature easily.

The Court established a county work-house. A Committee of Magistrates met the City Council, Tuesday morning, with a proposition that the city and county jointly operate the work-house, the city to purchase the rock crushed by the prisoners and employ them in street work. This the Council refused to do, and a substitute was offered by Councilman Anderson that they shall allow the county to work the city prisoners, but that the city will not contract for any of the prison labor. This proposition was adopted by the Court. Further the jail is to be used as the work-house, the prisoners to be taken out each morning by a manager and returned at night, if not too great a distance from the jail. The manager can employ a bail and chain, log, or put prisoners on a bread and water diet as means of discipline. The Court appointed Judge W. P. Winfree and Esquires T. C. Tinsley and S. B. Younglove as a Board to exercise supervisory care over the work-house. Should the city employ the prison labor at any time it shall pay the ordinary wages for same. Other details of the order of the Court need not be mentioned.

The action of the City Council in refusing to co-operate with the county is reprehensible. By refusing to employ the jail labor it virtually destroyed all chances for the prisoners to be worked, as Hopkinsville is about the only market for the labor, and thus the work-house is nullified, as it were. The city will not be benefited one cent as the matter stands. The ghost of "convict labor" was what scared them off, and the vote for the work-house was, yeas: Thompson, Beard, Campbell, Gilliland, Nays: Starling, Brown and Anderson—five votes being required, the matter was lost. We do not propose to advocate convict labor, but Messrs. Starling, Brown and Anderson were certainly stuck on a profound political principle to prefer that our prisoners should lay in the lockup to being worked on the streets, when it is a notorious fact that there are dead-beats in this town who fly to the calaboose in cold weather as to a city of refuge. On other point, this labor would not interfere in the least with honest labor, as there is now a great demand for workmen in this county, and the question is not at all similar to the effort to turn 600 or 800 penitentiary birds into the mines of the State. As it is when the city wishes to use the prisoners it must pay regulation wages for them. Further, these gentlemen in permitting the county to work the prisoners violate the very principle they contended for in the Council meeting.

The work-house is now merely established and the details will be perfected as experience may direct.

COURT NOTES.

Railroad bonds from \$7 to 100 were called in.

John W. Payne was appointed poor-house receiver.

The manager of the work house is to be elected by the Board of Commissioners.

Gordon Hanbery was elected delinquent pool tax collector with an allowance of 30 per cent.

All persons desiring bridge or road repairs will hereafter be compelled to notify the Court on the first day of the session, or by noon the next day.

H. W. Breathitt was appointed Commissioner to re-sell all lands sold for taxes from 1881 to '86, to make deeds to purchasers, &c., allowance 15 per cent.

Wednesday Col. Clark presented a request that the Court appropriate \$100 to be used in trying to secure the Norfolk & Columbus Railroad to come through this city. The request fell into "innocuous desuetude" and was never revived.

The Court laid the county levy as follows: 7 cents for county purposes 93 cents for paying interest on bonds and 20 cents for redemption of bonds. This will enable the Court to sink bonds 100 to 122 next year, leaving 78 still outstanding. The total county rate is thus 36 2/3 cents, which added to the state tax of 47 1/2, makes 84 cents.

Mitt Littlefield was refused an allowance of \$450 for taking the polls for '88. The yeas and nays were called, which we publish by request: Yeas: Tinsley, Fuller, Collins, Clark, Yancy, Johnson, Boyd, Renshaw, Davis, McGaughey, Major, Brashear, Lockhart, Armstrong, Ferguson—15. Nays: White, Younglove, Metcalfe, Cox, Fritz, Myers, Lackey, Penick, Powers, Stevenson, Fraser, Barker, Davis, Warfield, Geo. N. Johnson, Hite—16.

We think the following order of sufficient importance to be published in full: It is ordered that H. W. Breathitt be appointed a commissioner to re-sell land and property sold for taxes for the years 1881-'86, inclusive upon certificates of sheriff upon which the redemption right has expired; and that he is authorized to advertise the day and time of sale and pay the necessary expenses of said advertising and sale; and that if said lands or property is not redeemed to make sale to other purchasers and to make a deed as provided by law. Said commissioner shall be allowed 15 per cent for making said sale and collection.

An order was passed giving the insurance of the county public building, amounting in premiums to \$1,287.50 annually, to Long, Garnett & Co. and Winfree & Kelly. Friday a motion to reconsider was carried and the Court concluded to take out no insurance. The other local agents made a great effort to get a slice of the pie of the reconsideration, but none of them will get any now. Walter Garnett, of Long, Garnett & Co., says that a suit will be brought against the county by the agents who first secured the contract to recover their profits in the premiums.

Matthew Arnold, the noted poet, scholar and critic, whose recent article on "Civilization in the United States" attracted much attention, died suddenly Monday in Liverpool, from heart disease. There are a good many Americans that hope the civilization of the tropical clime will suit Mr. Arnold's refinement.

CONKLING DEAD.

Roscoe Conkling died in New York Wednesday morning at 2 o'clock. He was a truly magnificent man. As a party leader he was bold, daring, brilliant. He was no demagogue, and retired from politics when his party was bereft of statesmen. He was an imposing figure in American history and will be remembered along with Burr, Adams and Clay.

Treasurer Tate's vault was a kind of museum. Among other things of interest discovered there was a fine collection of walking canes, among them one with a richly chased gold handle from his friends, the clerks and State officials. The others have been collected from various sources, some of them unique in design and others of rare woods. Among the curiosities unearthed was a small relic containing about \$50 in silver coin and a beaded purse with about \$40 in gift coins, among them a Mexican \$20 gold piece. A \$100 counterfeit bill was filed away, and an old Roman coin of the time of Augustus. The counterfeit was sent to Mr. Tate by some Sheriff, and was retained as an evidence of the skill of the engraver.

The tariff question is simple of understanding in its general aspects, the difficulty arises when a statistical investigation is begun. In this regard there are but few men in the country who comprehend the subject. But it is easy enough for farmers, merchants, laborers and the agricultural classes to see that a protective duty is merely a subsidy to American manufacturers. The trouble with tariff speeches and tariff editorials is that only a partial array of facts is presented, and the hearer is led to follow the sparse logic of some enthusiast whose wings blind his eye-sight. The one fact for us to remember is that the great bulk of the people are robbed by protection.

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